

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6102

INFO USNATO BRUSSELS 4026

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOXCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LUSADA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1619

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, BE

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: BELGIAN POSITION ON RECOGNITION OF MPLA

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REF: BRUSSELS 01592

1. EUROPEAN COORDINATION AND FRENCH RECOGNITION: VERKAMEN AND JAENEN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AFRICAN DIRECTORATE TOLD US MORNING FEBRUARY 18 THAT EC-9 HAD BEEN ON VERGE OF GOING ALONG WITH FRENCH CALL FOR EARLY RECOGNITION AT FEBRUARY 16-17 POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG; THE FRG, HOWEVER, HELD FIRM IN CALLING FOR DELAY UNTIL FEBRUARY 23 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, PRECIPITATING PARIS DECISION TO BREAK WITH EC-9 AND GO IT ALONE ON RECOGNITION. CALLING FRENCH DECISION "BLOW TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION," VERKAMEN SAID BELGIUM COULD HAVE GONE ALONG WITH EARLY RECOGNITION IN THE INTEREST OF EC-9 SOLIDARITY. BELGIUM AND OTHERS HAD INSISTED THAT EC-9 ISSUE POLITICAL DECLARATION AT TIME OF MPLA RECOGNITION WHICH WOULD:

A. DEPLORE OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL ANGOLAN AFFAIRS;

B. CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF CUBANS, SOVIETS, SOUTH AFRICANS, AND OTHER OUTSIDERS FROM ANGOLA; AND

C. CALL ON GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

WITH INCLUSION OF SUCH STATEMENT IN EC-9 RECOGNITION DECISION, JAENEN SAID THAT BELGIUM COULD JUSTIFY TO FRIENDS LIKE ZAIRE BELGIUM'S GOING ALONG WITH EARLY RECOGNITION IN THE NAME EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION.

2. BELGIAN MOVES: WITH FRANCE BREAKING RANKS AND REST OF EIGHT ON THEIR OWN, BELGIAN OFFICIALS EXPECT DUTCH TO RECOGNIZE AT NOON TODAY, U.K. AT 13:00, AND DANES PROBABLY BEFORE END OF DAY. BELGIUM WILL NOT TAKE ANY IMMEDIATE ACTION AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE WILL RAISE ISSUE AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CABINET) MEETING FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23. BOTH VERKAMEN AND DIRECTOR GENERAL VANDEN BLOOCK TOLD US THAT ONE VIABLE OPTION TO BE PRESENTED TO CABINET IS AS FOLLOWS:

- SINCE BELGIUM RECOGNIZES STATES AND NOT GOVERNMENTS,
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AND

- SINCE BELGIUM ALREADY RECOGNIZED "ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE" ON NOVEMBER 11;

- THEREFORE, NO FURTHER DEBILITATING "RECOGNITION" EXERCISE IS REQUIRED;

- FOREIGN MINISTRY CAN QUIETLY GO ABOUT ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE OF EXCHANGING AMBASSADORS WITH ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT.

DIRECTOR GENERAL VANDEN BLOOCK ADDED THAT BELGIUM WOULD PLAN TO ASK FOR AGREEMENT FOR AN AMBASSADOR IN LUANDA QUICKLY IN ORDER TO GET HIM EN POSTE AND REPORTING. VERKAMEN SAID THERE MIGHT BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER THE CABINET MEETING FRIDAY OR BELGIUM MIGHT WAIT TO DISCUSS QUESTION AT FEBRUARY 23 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. HE ADDED THAT BELGIUM STILL MIGHT PUSH FOR EC-9 POLITICAL DECLARATION ON SOVIET/CUBAN INTERVENTION AND NECESSITY OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND NEIGHBORING STATES. VANDEN BLOOCK SAID FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE WOULD BE DISCUSSING ANGOLA AND RECOGNITION QUESTION LATER TODAY WITH ZAIRE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA KARL-I-BOND.

3. PRESS SPOKESMAN PRESENTED FOREIGN MINISTRY'S POSITION ON RECOGNITION OF STATES AND NOT GOVERNMENTS AT TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. IN RESPONSE TO REPORTER'S QUESTION ON OPENING EMBASSY IN LUANDA, SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT BELGIAN CONSULATE, IN CHARGE OF BELGIAN CONSULAR OFFICIAL, STILL OPEN AND FUNCTIONING THERE. RENNER

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